

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W  
-----252101Z 039767 /62

R 251500Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9013  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, JO  
SUBJECT: SOME FURTHER WEST BANK REACTIONS TO LIKUD SUCCESS  
AND CARTER STATEMENTS

REF: JERUSALEM 734, JERUSALEM 732, JERUSALEM 731,  
JERUSALEM 723

1. NABLUS DEPUTY MAYOR ZAFAR AL MASRI TOLD CONGEN OFFICER  
MAY 24 THAT HE BELIEVED WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WILL BE  
EXPOSED TO INCREASED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE AS A  
RESULT OF THE LIKUD'S RECENT ELECTORAL VICTORY. AL MASRI  
BELIEVES INCREASED SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST BANK, AS RECENTLY  
SUGGESTED BY LIKUD'S BEGIN AT QADDUM, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE  
RESISTED BY ARABS THROUGH DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS AND THAT  
ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO CONSOLIDATE THAT RESISTANCE SO AN  
INCIDENT ANYWHERE ON THE WEST BANK WILL BE PROTESTED EVERYWHERE.

2. AL MASRI ALSO FEARS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILGOV AND  
MUNICIPALITIES WILL DETERIORATE EVEN FURTHER TO A POINT WHERE  
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THE MILGOV WILL NOT EVEN DEIGN TO RECEIVE VERBAL PROTESTS  
THUS LEAVING MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AS THE REGULAR MODE OF  
POLITICAL EXPRESSION.

3. AL MASRI, HOWEVER, DOUBTS THAT THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT WILL  
REVERSE THE POLICY OF OPEN BRIDGES BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE  
ISRAELI INFORMANTS AND CONTRABAND ACCESS TO THE ARAB WORLD.

4. DESPITE SHORT-TERM HARDSHIPS, THE BASIC PROSPECTS FOR THE WEST BANK HAVE NOT CHANGED, ACCORDING TO AL MASRI. THE LABOR PARTY, NO LESS THAN THE LIKUD, NEVER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED MAKING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS VOLUNTARILY. AS BEFORE, ANY WITHDRAWALS WILL COME ONLY WITH U.S. PRESSURE.

5. PRESIDENT CARTER'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE NEED FOR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED BY WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. ACCORDING TO AL MASRI, THE PRESIDENT HAS WON A LARGE MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE AMONG THE POPULATION WHICH IS ALMOST CONVINCED (AFTER AN INITIAL PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY) THAT CARTER DOES NOT HAVE JORDAN IN MIND AS THE SITE FOR THAT HOMELAND.

6. CARTER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY, SERIALIZED IN ARABIC IN AL QUDS, HAS REINFORCED THIS TRUST. EVEN SOME CONSISTENTLY HOSTILE AND SUSPICIOUS PALESTINIANS NOW BELIEVE IN CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEGRITY. SOME COMMENTS: "A GOOD, HONEST FELLAH (FARMER), UNTAINTED BY WASHINGTON POLITICS." " A GOOD MAN WHO CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD NOT JUST THE RULING MINORITIES."

7. HOWEVER, SOME SKEPTICAL WEST BANKERS ARE WONDERING WHETHER THE U.S. WILL BE AS CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE WEST BANK AS WE ARE IN OTHER PLACES AND WHETHER THE U.S. WILL TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS TO DISCOURAGE LIKUD POLICIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (ESPECIALLY SETTLEMENTS) OF WHICH WE PUBLICLY DISAPPROVE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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